

S-91
Somerset County Courthouse
Princess Anne
public

1904-1905

Standing prominently in the center of Princess Anne is the Somerset County Courthouse, a two-and-a-half story red brick, Georgian Revival structure nine bays across by five bays deep. The principal elevation, facing Prince William Street, is distinguished by a portico of fluted Ionic sandstone columns with classical entablature and balustrade. The windows are highlighted by limestone arches with projecting keystones on the first floor and round arches on the second. Distinguishing the perimeter of the roof is a modillion cornice of molded metal, and small lunette windows pierce each pediment. The first floor is divided by a generous cross hall which separates corner offices, while the courtroom is located on the second floor.

Architects Frank E. and Henry R. Davis are credited with the Georgian Revival design, and the construction firm of W. P. Pusey and Son of Snow Hill was awarded the project in 1904 at the cost of \$28,451. Before construction began, the former courthouse, erected in 1833, was torn down along with the old Teackle Bank building which had been converted to county offices. An account written at the time of demolition reported that brick and other materials were salvaged from the old buildings and incorporated in the new courthouse.

County ownership of this corner property, known as "Lot 16," began in April of 1827 when the Levy Court purchased the former location of the Bank of Somerset from the District Court of the United States for \$3,000. At the time, the lot was improved by a two-story, five-bay brick structure erected around 1815. When the eighteenth-century courthouse burned in 1831, the Levy Court decided to

relocate the county buildings on the Prince William Street site. On April 4, 1832, the Court appointed George A. Dashiell and Alexander Jones to contract for the erection of new accommodations that could be used by the next May term. The design of the 1833 courthouse followed the Federal gable-front design established thirty years earlier by Littleton Dennis Teackle.

1. STATE **Maryland**COUNTY **Somerset**TOWN **Princess Anne** VICINITYSTREET NO. **Somerset Ave**

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS

INVENTORY **S- 91**ORIGINAL OWNER **Commissioners of S. Co.**ORIGINAL USE **Courthouse**PRESENT OWNER **Commissioners of S. Co.**PRESENT USE **Courthouse**WALL CONSTRUCTION **brick**NO. OF STORIES **2**2. NAME **Somerset County Courthouse**DATE OR PERIOD **1904**STYLE **Classical Revival**ARCHITECT **Frank E. and Henry R. Davis**

BUILDER

3. FOR LIBRARY OF CONGRESS USE

4. NOTABLE FEATURES, HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE AND DESCRIPTION

OPEN TO PUBLIC **yes**

^{Georgian}
The ~~Classical~~ Revival Somerset County Courthouse was constructed in 1904 near the site of the earlier courthouse. The red brick walls, built on a granite foundation, are of a very smooth brick. A variety of hipped roof covers the space inside. Its south facade is composed of a central pedimented pavillion projecting slightly forward of the main block. Each of the three parts of the facade contain three windows. Those on the first story have stone arches with keystones, and the second story windows have semicircular stone arches with keystones. A one-story porch having stone ionic columns with balustrade above extends the width of the pavillion. Brick quoins are located at the corners of the building and a stone belt course runs between the two floors.

The Somerset Avenue facade is very similar to the Prince William St. facade, except it is four windows narrower, having a single window flanking the central pavillion. It also lacks the porch, but its stone ionic entablature and the semicircular fanlight with lead tracery is similar to what is concealed below the porch roof.

5. PHYSICAL CONDITION OF STRUCTURE **Endangered no Interior fair Exterior good**

6. LOCATION MAP (Plan Optional)

7. PHOTOGRAPH

8. PUBLISHED SOURCES (Author, Title, Pages)
INTERVIEWS, RECORDS, PHOTOS, ETC.9. NAME, ADDRESS AND TITLE OF RECORDER
Michael Bourne
Maryland Historical TrustDATE OF RECORD **Summer 1972**



Old Courthouse S-91
Princess Anne, Somerset County
Documentary Photograph, c.1900
Photographer, Brown
Collection of W. Marshall Scott
Copied 1984, Paul Touart



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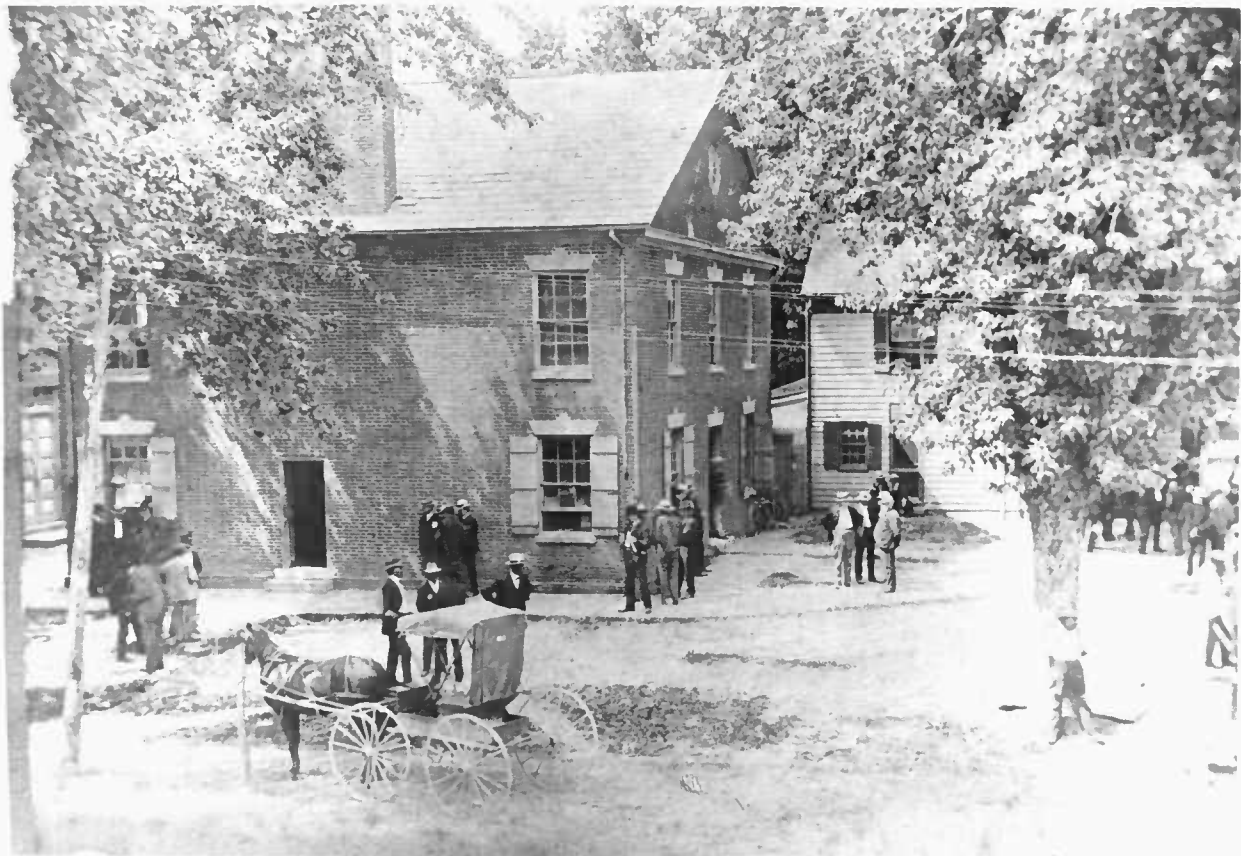
Somerset County Courthouse

Princess Anne, Somerset County, MD

Documentary photograph, c. 1900

E. I. Brown, photographer

Collection of Mr. Robert Withey

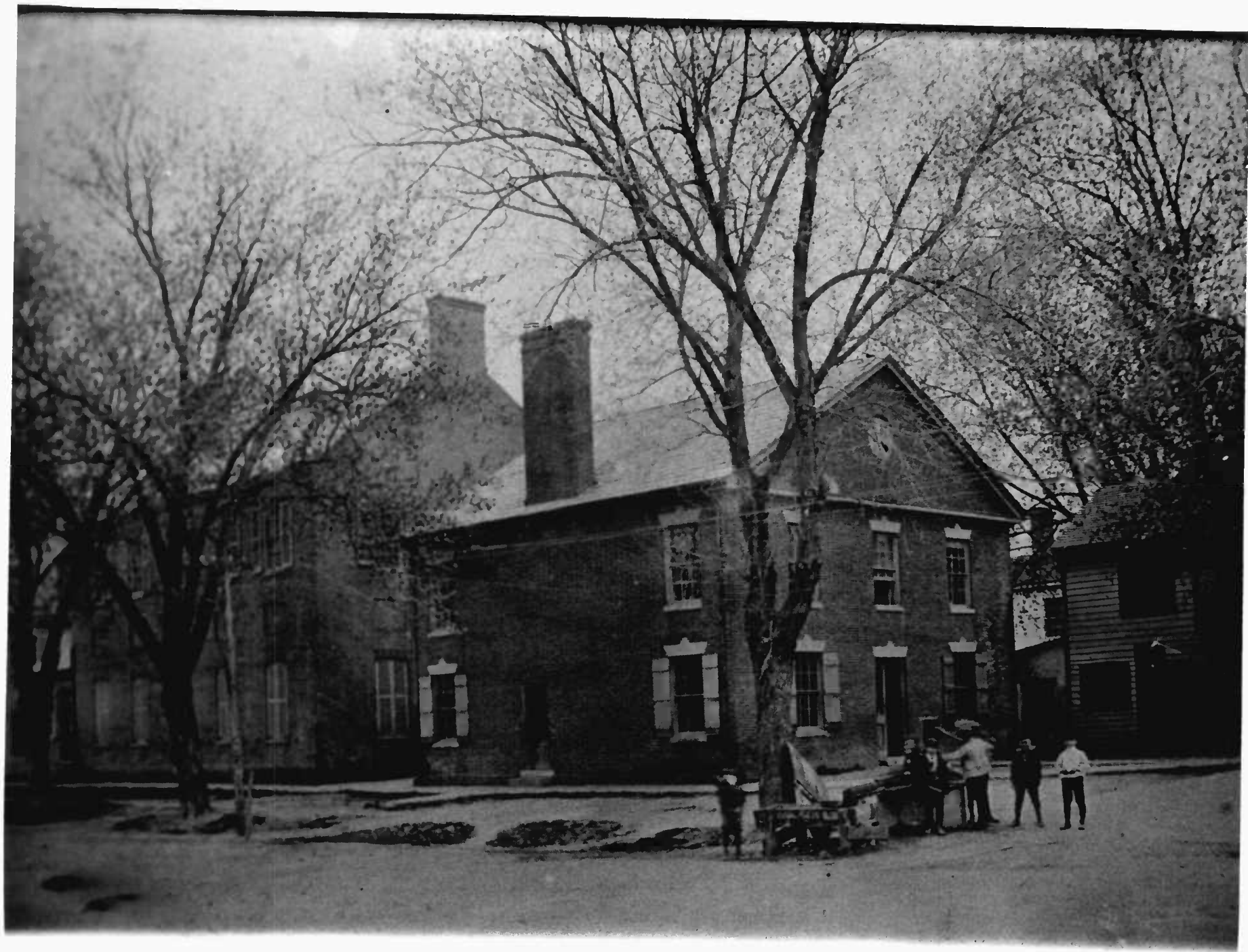


Somerset County Courthouse
Documentary Photograph c. 1890
Photographer- Brown
Collection of Robert Withey
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Somerset County Courthouse S-91
Princess Anne, Somerset Co., Md
Documentary photograph, c. 1930
Maryland Historical Society



Somerset County Courthouse
Princess Anne, Maryland
1833 Courthouse taken c. 1900
E. I. Brown, Photographer
Collection of Marshall C. Scott
Copied May 1984, Paul Touart

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